

Plastic Bag and Film Recycling

1. Can I put plastic bags/film in my recycling container?

Yes, you can put bags of bags/film in your recycling container, but they **MUST be bundled** together in a larger bag. Loose bags are not acceptable in your curbside recycling because they get wrapped around and jam the screens at the processor. Also, please keep in mind that recycling plastic bags in your curbside bin exposes bags to contaminants such as broken glass, food and liquids that could make the bags unusable for recycling.

Is there a better way?

The best way to recycle your bags/film is to take them to a grocery or retail store. Most local grocery stores, and retail stores, such as IKEA, Wal-Mart and Target, have collection containers for plastic bags and film. This option ensures that the items stay clean and dry.

TIP: Reduce the amount of plastic bags you have by using reusable bags.

2. Do the grocery and retail stores actually recycle the plastic bags?

Yes! Many collection locations are contracted with companies that specialize in recycling plastic bags and film to make plastic 'wood' decking. Their processing equipment is specifically designed for plastic bags and film, which helps to ensure that the bags stay clean and dry.

3. What items are included in 'plastic bags and film'?

Plastic bags and film include:

- Grocery/retail bags
- Mattress/furniture covers
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Plastic wrap from toilet paper rolls, napkins, paper towels, bottles of water, etc.
- Produce bags
- Frozen vegetable bags
- Food storage bags (please be sure these are empty and lightly rinsed if needed)
- Bubble wrap
- Air filled bags for packaging
- Any other clean, dry bags/film

Not sure if your bag or film can be recycled in your bag-of-bags?

Do the stretch test! If you can stretch the plastic film/bag pretty easily, you can recycle it in your bag-of-bags. If the plastic is crinkly or does not easily stretch, it should go in the trash. The plastic wrap from CD cases is a good example of crinkly, non-stretchable plastic that should be trashed.

Howard County does not endorse vendors or services.



www.HowardCountyRecycles.org

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